Labour Legislation for EPZs and EOUs

1567. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a separate legislation on labour exclusively for the EPZs and EOUs are being considered by Government;

(b) if so, the board outline, WTO requirement, if any, and when it is likely to be adopted;

(c) whether "hire and fire" or "Contract" system with protection of labour rights as well as protection of unit survival being considered;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the list of countries adopting such system and advantage enjoyed by those towards higher share in the Global Export Market?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEDGE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) No final decision has been yet taken.

Trade Talks with Pakistan

1568. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indo-Pak talks held recently on Economic and Commercial Cooperation have resulted in expanding Pakistan's list of tradeable items with India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the issue of granting the "Most Favoured Nation" status to India was also taken up in the talks; and

(d) if so, the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEDGE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Pakistan side indicated that Most Favoured Nation status would be accorded by them to India in due course.

Impact of Import Policy

1569. SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that India is going down economically every day due to the fact that import policy has made the import of capital goods cheaper and Indian goods costlier through the mechanism of import duties;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor especially in the case of concessional duty structure which applies to import of capital goods required for electricity generation, electricity transmission and refineries; and

(c) whether Government are now extending it gradually to telephone industry; and if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEDGE): (a) Import duties are fixed taking into account all factors, including the demand and supply position of the items in question, the requirements of the domestic industry and the interest of the users. Streamlining of custom duty structure is an ongoing process involving rationalisation of duty rates, reduction in multiplicity of rates, rectification of anomalies and simplification of procedures for tax collection.

(b) and (c) Concessional duty structure in respect of capital goods has been prescribed for power generation and power transmission projects; for specified items required for setting up of new refineries in the IXth Plan Period and, for specified items required for telecom projects as these sectors have been identified as core infrastructure sectors.